



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 29, 1999

H.R. 3002 **Resources Reports Restoration Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 6, 1999

SUMMARY

Under current law, certain federal and nonfederal reporting requirements will expire on December 21, 1999. H.R. 3002 would require certain land and resource management agencies to continue to prepare 128 of these reports. Based on information from several of these agencies, CBO estimates that extending these reporting requirements would cost about \$1 million a year starting in fiscal year 2001, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3002 contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the costs of these mandates would be small—well below the threshold established in that act (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation). A few of the reporting requirements that would be reinstated by this bill are mandates currently imposed on the governments of U.S. territories. Reinstating those requirements would be new mandates.

H.R. 3002 would impose a private-sector mandate by making permanent a requirement on two private foundations to submit annual reports to the Congress. CBO estimates that the direct costs of the mandate would fall well below the threshold established in UMRA (\$100 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Several federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior's land and resource management agencies, the Forest Service, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council for Environmental Quality, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Justice, are responsible for the reports that would be continued under H.R. 3002. The contents of these reports vary from routine reports on resource data, updates

on specific projects or programs, financial and audit reports, to comprehensive reports on the performance of large programs.

H.R. 3002 references some reports that are not submitted by agencies now, or that replicate data compiled and submitted in other reports. Based on information provided by several agencies, CBO estimates that less than a dozen of the reports that would be continued under the bill cost more than \$50,000 annually to prepare. These include reports prepared by the Department of Energy, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and agencies within the Department of the Interior. We estimate that continuing about half of the reports listed in the bill would not affect spending because agencies plan to continue to prepare them after the requirement to do so expires, or because agencies currently expend little effort to meet the reporting requirements. For other reports cited in the bill, we estimate that agencies would incur annual costs of \$5,000 to \$15,000 to continue preparing reports. In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3002 would increase discretionary spending by about \$1 million a year over the 2001-2004 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Under current law, the governments of U.S. territories must prepare comprehensive annual financial reports, publish these reports, and submit them to the Congress and to the Secretary of the Interior. The requirements that the territories submit these reports to the Congress would sunset under current law, but would be restored by H.R. 3002. Restoring these requirements would be mandates as defined in UMRA, but the cost would be small—well below the UMRA threshold (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation). H.R. 3002 would reinstate a number of other reporting requirements that affect U.S. territories, but the rest are all conditions of federal assistance, and thus would not constitute mandates.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Current law, which is set to expire on December 21, 1999, requires two private foundations—the National Park Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation—to submit annual reports on their activities to the Congress. The foundations were established as federally chartered corporations by the Congress to accept and administer donations toward natural and cultural resource conservation programs. H.R. 3002 would

make the reporting requirement on the foundations permanent. Based on information provided by the foundations, CBO estimates that the direct cost, if any, of extending the existing mandate would be minimal and thus would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$100 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Megan Carroll

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Keith Mattrick

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis